

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (new) In a method for making a flexible tube skirt comprising obtaining a preformed planar web of predetermined initial thickness from at least one plastic or metal layer, forming a cylindrical sleeve from the planar web, and cutting the cylindrical sleeve to a predetermined length to obtain the skirt,

the improvement comprising, prior to forming the cylindrical sleeve, passing the planar web between two rolls moving relative to each other, a space between the two rolls defining an air gap having a dimension less than the predetermined initial thickness of the web, whereby the web is subjected to a plastic deformation passing between the rolls.

12. (new) Method according to claim 11, wherein a force is applied between said rolls such that the web emerges from said air-gap thinned plastically by more than 0.5%.

13. (new) Method according to claim 12, wherein the web is thinned by more than 1%.

14. (new) Method according to claim 11, wherein a force is applied between said rolls such that the web emerging from said air-gap has an embossed decoration including raised surfaces or depths of an amplitude between one thirtieth and five times the thickness of said web.

15. (new) Method according to claim 14, wherein the amplitude is between one fifteenth and five times the thickness.

16. (new) Method according to claim 15, wherein the amplitude is between one tenth and 3 times the thickness.

17. (new) Method according to claim 11, wherein said moving rolls are substantially parallel, at least one roll having etched raised surfaces for embossing the web.

18. (new) Method according to claim 11, wherein the web is compressed between said rolls with a force of between 2.5 and 500 newtons per millimeter of web width.

19. (new) Method according to claim 11, wherein said web is raised to a temperature of between 75°C and 120°C before coming into contact with said rolls.

20. (new) Method according to claim 19, wherein said web is maintained at said temperature for at least ½ second before coming into contact with said rolls.

21. (new) Method according to claim 14, wherein at least one roll is cooled to a temperature close to ambient temperature, and the web emerging from the air-gap between the rolls is either wound around a winder or deformed for shaping into said cylinder.

22. (new) method according to claim 21, wherein the roll temperature is below 40°C.

23. (new) Method according to claim 14, wherein the etched roll is also used to imprint a decoration onto said web.